



The State of New Hampshire  
*Department of Environmental Services*



Michael P. Nolin  
Commissioner

March 28, 2006

The Honorable Carl R. Johnson, Chairman  
Environment and Wildlife Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 103  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**RE: HB 1455-FN-A, An Act relative to the disposal of video display devices**

Dear Chairman Johnson and Members of the Committee:

HB 1455-FN-A, as amended, seeks to ban the disposal of certain electronic devices in landfills and incinerators. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill.

Electronic waste is a growing solid waste problem in the United States. The average computer monitor or television occupies 2.5 cubic feet of space and contains 8 or more pounds of lead, a toxic metal known to cause groundwater, surface water, and air pollution. The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that Americans discard 2 million tons of electronic trash each year.

HB-1455-FN-A would remove televisions and computer monitors from the waste stream by imposing a ban on the disposal of the materials at landfills and incinerators in the state. Materials thus removed from the waste stream can be diverted to any of at least 16 electronics recycling companies in New Hampshire. Organizations such as the Northeast Resource Recovery Association have already established a containerized electronics recycling programs for the members of that cooperative. Computer companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Gateway, and others have established take-back programs for computers and other electronics. Waste Management, operator of the largest landfill facility in New Hampshire and Wheelabrator, operator of two waste-to-energy facilities have already informed their customers that they will no longer accept these materials.

As amended, this bill would provide municipal solid waste facilities with a means to remove these materials from the waste stream and also assist private recyclers by providing an increased source of materials.

NHDES appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. If you have additional questions, please contact me or Tony Giunta at 271-2905.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Nolin  
Commissioner

cc: Sen. John T. Gallus  
Sen. John S. Barnes, Jr.  
Sen. Thomas R. Eaton  
Sen. Margaret W. Hassan

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